

C L A I M S

1. A distributor characterized by comprising:
2 an oscillator which outputs electromagnetic
3 waves;
4 a first square waveguide to be connected to
5 said oscillator; and
6 a second square waveguide having a plurality
7 of openings,
8 wherein said first square waveguide and said
9 second square waveguide communicate with each other
10 through a communication hole formed in one narrow wall
11 of each of said first square waveguide and said second
12 square waveguide.
2. A distributor according to claim 1,
2 characterized in that said first square waveguide
3 comprises a guide wall which projects from the other
4 narrow wall toward the communication hole and guides the
5 electromagnetic waves propagating in said first square
6 waveguide toward the communication hole.
3. A distributor according to claim 2,
2 characterized in that the electromagnetic waves which
3 are reflected by said guide wall and travel in an
4 opposite direction in said square waveguide and the
5 electromagnetic waves which are reflected by an end of
6 said first square waveguide cancel each other.
4. A distributor according to claim 3,

2 characterized in that

3 said guide wall is arranged to oppose the
4 communication hole, and

5 said end of said first square waveguide is
6 arranged at a position away from said guide wall by an
7 integer multiple of substantially $1/2$ a tube wavelength
8 of said first square waveguide.

5. A distributor according to claim 1,
2 characterized in that said second square waveguide
3 comprises a conductive column which is arranged in the
4 vicinity of the communication hole and extends between
5 opposing wide walls.

6. A demultiplexer according to claim 1,
2 characterized in that said first square waveguide and
3 said second square waveguide have different relative
4 dielectric constants.

7. A plasma processing system characterized by
2 comprising:
3 a stage to place a target object thereon;
4 a processing vessel to accommodate said stage;
5 an antenna assembly having a plurality of
6 radiation waveguides with slots; and
7 a demultiplexer which distributes
8 electromagnetic waves to said radiation waveguides,
9 said demultiplexer comprising
10 an oscillator which outputs the
11 electromagnetic waves,

12 a first square waveguide to be connected to
13 said oscillator, and
14 a second square waveguide to be connected to
15 one end of each of said radiation waveguides through a
16 plurality of openings formed therein,
17 wherein said first square waveguide and said
18 second square waveguide communicate with each other
19 through a communication hole formed in one narrow wall
20 of each of said first square waveguide and said second
21 square waveguide.

8. A plasma processing system according to claim
2 7, characterized in that each of said radiation
3 waveguides has a standing wave driving slot, on the
4 other end of a side wall thereof, to be driven by
5 standing waves which are formed of traveling waves
6 traveling from said one end toward said other end and
7 reflected waves reflected by said other end toward said
8 one end.

9. A plasma processing system according to claim
2 8, characterized in that said standing wave driving slot
3 is formed at a position away from said other end toward
4 said one end by a natural number multiple of
5 substantially $1/2$ a tube wavelength of a corresponding
6 one of said radiation waveguides.

10. A plasma processing system according to claim
2 8, characterized in that each of said radiation
3 waveguides comprises a reflecting member which is

4 arranged on a side of said one end, when seen from said
5 standing wave driving slot, and reflects part of the
6 traveling waves toward said one end to cancel the
7 reflected waves which are reflected by said other end or
8 said standing wave driving slot.

11. A plasma processing system according to claim
2 10, characterized in that said reflecting member is
3 arranged at a predetermined position between a center
4 position of said standing wave driving slot and a
5 position away from the center position toward said one
6 end by substantially $3/2$ the tube wavelength of said
7 corresponding one of said radiation waveguides.

12. A distributing method characterized by
2 comprising the steps of:
3 introducing electromagnetic waves propagating
4 in a first square waveguide into a second square
5 waveguide through a communication hole formed in one
6 narrow wall of each of the first square waveguide and
7 the second square waveguide; and
8 distributing the electromagnetic waves
9 introduced into the second square waveguide to a
10 plurality of waveguides through a plurality of openings
11 formed in the second square waveguide.

13. A plasma processing method characterized by
2 comprising the steps of:
3 introducing electromagnetic waves propagating
4 in a first square waveguide into a second square

5 waveguide through a communication hole formed in one
6 narrow wall of each of the first square waveguide and
7 the second square waveguide;
8 distributing the electromagnetic waves
9 introduced into the second square waveguide to a
10 plurality of radiation waveguides through a plurality of
11 openings formed in the second square waveguide;
12 supplying the electromagnetic waves introduced
13 into the radiation waveguides to a processing vessel
14 through a slot formed in each of the radiation
15 waveguides; and
16 processing a target object placed in the
17 processing vessel utilizing a plasma which is generated
18 by the electromagnetic waves supplied to the processing
19 vessel.

14. A process for fabricating an LCD,
2 characterized by comprising the steps of:
3 introducing electromagnetic waves propagating
4 in a first square waveguide into a second square
5 waveguide through a communication hole formed in one
6 narrow wall of each of the first square waveguide and
7 the second square waveguide;
8 distributing the electromagnetic waves
9 introduced into the second square waveguide to a
10 plurality of radiation waveguides through a plurality of
11 openings formed in the second square waveguide;
12 supplying the electromagnetic waves introduced

13 into the radiation waveguides to a processing vessel
14 through a slot formed in each of the radiation
15 waveguides; and
16 subjecting a surface of an LCD substrate
17 arranged in the processing vessel to a process such as
18 etching, ashing, oxidation, nitridation, or CVD
19 utilizing a plasma which is generated by the
20 electromagnetic waves supplied to the processing vessel.